31st January 1929]

(d) how long it will take for the Public Works Department to repair the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Ghaut Road;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Nilgiris District Board has submitted proposals and estimates for converting the Segur Road into a trunk road; and

(f) what the decision of the Government is thereon and whether the Government propose to make sufficient provision in the next budget for making this a trunk road?

A.—(a) Yes, the Government received reports of the damages caused to the road making traffic impossible for some time and it is therefore likely that people were put to some inconvenience in getting necessary food-stuffs at the usual prices.

(b) The Government have already considered the question and have decided that the Mettupalayam-Kotagiri Road should be made to serve the purpose.

(c) No. The Government consider that it is only necessary to maintain the road in a condition fit to carry trunk road traffic on occasions when the main ghaut road is closed.

(d) The road was opened for traffic on the 1st January 1929.

(e) Yes

(f) The Government cannot hold out any hope that this road will be classified as a trunk road in the near future. They are prepared, however, to consider detailed proposals for its general improvement and await these from the district board concerned.

Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—"May I know, in view of the importance of this road, whether the Government will be pleased to reconsider the matter and make a thorough investigation?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"It will be considered."

*Tenders for the construction of the new out-patients department in the Madras General Hospital.*

*1211-A Q.—Dr. B. S MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(a) whether tenders were called for by the Executive Engineer, North Presidency Division, for constructing the out-patient department under the new General Hospital scheme;

(b) from how many persons tenders were received; and

(c) the names and other particulars of the persons who offered to take up the work?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Seven.

(c) The names of the tenderers are—

1. N. Selvaperumal Mudaliyar,
2. A. L. Viswanatha Chetti,
3. C. Dharmalinga Mudaliyar,
4. The General Construction Company, Limited,
5. T. Namberumal Chetti,
6. Messrs. Gannon Dunkerly & Co., Limited, and
7. P. Thirulokanatha Mudaliyar.

It is not clear what the hon. Member means by "other particulars."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know, Sir, whether all the tenders were received in time, or any concession shown to any one else, whatever might be the quotations of other tenderers ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"With reference to the answer to this question I may say that as given in 1211-B 'particulars have been called for from the Chief Engineer' and as soon as we get those particulars, we shall give all the information that is asked for."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know, Sir, whether this work is being done by other firms ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"From the answer given to the next question, you will find the name of the firm who are doing this work and that is 'The General Construction Company, Limited'."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"There is nothing there to say that the work is not being done by anybody else. I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that this work is being done by other firms as well ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"The answer is given in the next question."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know whether any time was fixed before which the tenders should be submitted ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"We have called for a report from the Chief Engineer in extenso and as soon as it is received, we will be able to give all the information that is asked for."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"May I know from the hon. Minister whether the present contractor to whom the work has been given was the lowest tenderer among all the tenderers ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"How can I reply to it now ? It all depends upon the particulars that will be received from the Chief Engineer."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"I personally referred the matter to the hon. Minister some months back, and he said that the matter could be got. I think the information could be got within two hours, or I may say even within five minutes. I do not know why there should have been so much delay on the part of the Government to get this information ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"We have been in correspondence with the Chief Engineer for a long time."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"May I know when he expects the report ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"As early as possible."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—"May I know how he is interested in delaying this matter ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"I am not at all interested."